

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 5 recites a nestable liner blank which comprises at least three side panels separated by at least two transverse fold lines. The term "side panels" is intended to clarify that the panels constitute the sides of the blank, as opposed to the tops or bottoms of the blank. In claim 5, the top and/or bottom of the panels are accommodated in a space between the height of the liner panel and the height of the panel where the height is less than 90% that of the fold line. As mentioned in the previous amendment, it is the top and bottom of the panels which are accommodated in the space, not some further appendage to the panels as is set out in Figs. 1 and 2 of Ringler. This reflects the very different structure of the erected Ringler can carrier wherein two of the main panels 2 and 2' wrap around the top and bottom of the can whereas it is transversely extending straps 8 and 8' and 7 and 7' which wrap around the sides of the cans. The Office points to no suggestion in Ringler that tops and bottoms of side panels should be accommodated within the space created by recessing of panels.

Claim 6 has been amended to specify that the packages are cartons. In clear contrast, the Ringler device is a can carrier and it is submitted that one of ordinary skill who would not absent the present invention think to use the Ringler structure for cartons. Claim 7 further recites the combination liner and package of claim 6 wherein the panels include a top free edge and a bottom free edge. This further distinguishes the Ringler

carrier in that Ringlers panels do not include top and bottom free edges. Moreover this is structurally significant for the reasons mentioned above.

With respect to claim 1, it is submitted that this claim is not suggested by the cited art for the reasons given in the after final response faxed on May 12, 2003. Since Ringler indicates that his carriers are to sealed without the application of further securing means, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill would not be led to combine Ringler's can carriers with Coles structurally different display unit. In addition, new claim 8 recites that the panels include a top free edge and bottom free edge. This can be readily seen in the present figures. This clearly distinguishes the can carriers of Ringlers' figures 1 and 2 cited by the Office, which clearly include straps.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application, as amended, be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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